

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 895

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4697

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: JRA TERRORISTS

REF: A. STATE 189196 B. KL 4673

1. I WENT TO AIRPORT SUNDAY MORNING (AUG 10) FOR 0700 ARRIVAL OF JAL FLIGHT FROM TRIPOLI WITH MALAYSIAN AND JAPANESE GUARANTORS. (ARRIVAL WAS OCCASION FOR LARGE UMNO YOUTH RALLY WITH HOSTAGE RAMLI AS CENTERPIECE AND VARIOUS POLITICIANS COMPETING FOR LIMELIGHT.) THEREFORE, THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE UP QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL A WITH SEVERAL SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS BUT NOT WITH PRIME MINISTER RAZAK OR MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS GHAZALI SHAFIE WHO WERE NOT PRESENT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, FONAFFAIRS MINISTRY SYG ZAITON WAS VERY DOUBTFUL GOM WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO LARG ON SUBJECT PUNISHMENT OF TERRORISTS. LARG RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED AIRCRAFT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS; GOM WOULD NOW HESITATE TO PUT LARG ON POLITICAL SPOT BY MAKING DEMANDS. I POINTED OUT THAT IT NOT NECESSARILY QUESTION OF MAKING DEMANDS, (THE WORD "EXTRADITION" WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY USED IN THESE CONVERSATIONS) IT MIGHT BE THAT QUIET TALKS WOULD DO THE TRICK. AFTER ALL, NO UNDERTAKINGS HAD BEEN ASKED
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OR GIVEN RE "SAFE CONDUCT" OR THE FUTURE OF THE TERRORISTS.

LIBYANS HAD AGREED AIRCRAFT COULD LAND, NOTHING MORE.
CONVERSATION ENDED ON INCONCLUSIVE NOTE.

3. ZAIN AZRAAI, PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PM (AND
UNOFFICIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR) TOOK DIFFERENT LINE.
HE VERY MUCH REGRETTED THAT, WHILE ORGY OF SELF-CONGRATULATION
GOING ON HERE, THERE WAS NOT STRONGER NOTE OF CONDEMNATION
OF TERRORISTS. HE FELT THERE SHOULD BE "STRONGER INTER-
NATIONAL ACTION" AGAINST TERRORISM. AS OTHERS WERE PRESENT,
THERE WAS NOT OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH HIM QUESTION OF GOME
APPROACH TO LARG.

4. GHAZALI SHAFIE (SEE SEPTTEL) HAS MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS
CALLING FOR MORE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT
TERRORISM AND, OF COURSE, SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS ARE TAKING
VERY TOUGH LINE IN PRIVATE.

5. I RECOMMEND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE AT
FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SUBJECT OF EXTRADITION, BEARING IN MIND
THAT GOM HAS OPERATIVE EXTRADITION AGREEMENTS ONLY WITH ITS
IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. WHEN MALAYSIANS PREDICTABLY DEMUR
ON TAKING STRONGER POSITION VIS A VIS LARG AND OTHERS, I
WOULD PRESS THEM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FACT THEY HAVE GOOD
ASIAN, MUSLIM AND THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS TO SPEAK FAIRLY
BLUNTLY TO OTHER NATIONS, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY
ARABS, ON NEED FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE IN COMBATTING
TERRORISM. I WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO MAKE SAME APPROACH TO
GHAZALI SHAFIE, WITH WHOM I CAN BE EVEN MORE BLUNT, AND
INVITE HIM TO SUIT ACTIONS TO HIS RECENT WORDS. GHAZALI IS MAN OF
THE HOUR HERE, AND THERE IS GOOD CHANCE PM RAZAK WILL LISTEN
TO HIM -- UNLESS RAZAK DECIDES THAT GHAZALI'S PUBLIC REPUTATION
HAS BEEN TOO UNCOMFORTABLY ENHANCED. DILLON

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